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**1963/05/03**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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May 3, 1963

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 237

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Project MERCURY Manned Space Flight (MA-9)

The President is aware of the contingency planning with respect to the possibility of the landing of MERCURY 9 or future Gemini flights in the territorial waters of Communist China, North Vietnam, or Cuba, as described in the letter dated May 1, 1963, from the Deputy Under Secretary of State to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

The President agrees that the Secretary of Defense has adequate authority to authorize the penetration of the territorial waters of the above countries for the purpose of locating, rendering assistance to, and retrieving the personnel and spacecrafts.

*McGeorge Bundy*  
McGeorge Bundy

cc: Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Administrator, National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

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